

Claim 6 has been cancelled without prejudice. The type of mesh, i.e., plain, double, rope, etc., are disclosed in the application and are covered by the main claim.

The Examiner's rejection of the claim based upon Cook is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Cook has two layers of knitted fabric. Whereas the structure as claimed contains one layer of knitted fabric. Accordingly, it is submitted that Cook does not anticipate the invention under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Cook's disclosure addresses the twisting problem and employs or provides "two layers of knitted reinforcement 15 and 15a" (column 4, lines 11-12). For example, a layer containing a left hand layer and a right hand layer. Cook employs two layers specifically to eliminate the twisting problem which occurs with only one layer (column 4, lines 21-27).

Each layer, 15 and 15a, comprises a mesh line and a mesh row. For purposes of this discussion, the mesh row is in the direction of the loops in Fig. 2 which also corresponds to the direction of arrows 16 and 17. The mesh lines are perpendicular to each of the arrows 16 and 17. Thus, each mesh row (or loop) in layer 15 lies at an angle 18a with respect to the longitudinal axis of the hose. Likewise, each mesh row in layer 15a lies at an angle 18 with respect to the axis of the hose. Angles 18 and 18a are at the same angle relative to the axis of the hose but run in opposite directions. The angles 18-18a are each in the range of 15-19° resulting in two layers at 30-38° (column 4, lines 28-44).

Each mesh line in 15 and 15a runs in a direction perpendicular to the corresponding lines 16 and 17 in Fig. 2 of Cook. These lines likewise form an angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of the hose and are likewise the same angle but in opposite directions. Thus, the mesh lines and mesh rows do not lie along slanted lines in opposite directions at the substantially the same inclination. In the present invention, the mesh row angle and the mesh line angle are the same but lie in opposite directions, this is not true for the reference. Also, it cannot even be said that the two layers are at the same angle but in opposite directions. The present invention solves the twisting problem with only one new layer. The layer is knitted with a special machine capable to make the kind of mesh with rows and lines slanted in opposite directions at substantially the same inclination relative to the axis of the hose. Thus, the mesh row angle and the mesh line angle are the same but face in opposite directions.

Such a knitting machine capable to produce a mesh network for the hose of the invention is referred to on page 5, lines 3-12 and is the subject matter of another application. As a result, Cook, as a practical matter, is obliged to make use of two layers because he would not have been aware of how to make a single layer without the knowledge of some new apparatus.

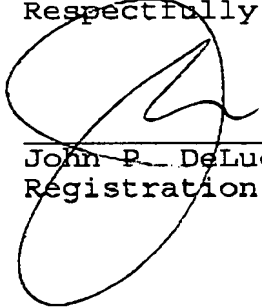
The angle of each of the mesh lines in 15 and 15a are the same inclination but opposite directions relative to the longitudinal axis of the hose. The direction of the mesh lines are likewise at the same inclination but in opposite directions relative to the

longitudinal axis of the hose. However, the angle of the mesh line and the angle of the mesh rows are not the same and two layers are required.

With respect to the documents referred to in the European Search Report which was filed May 9, 1995, it should be stressed that no document shows how to solve the twisting of hoses and none of the documents disclose a hose with a mesh network. Each document makes reference to a reinforcement with braided or crossed wires.

During a telephone interview with the Examiner conducted on June 12, 1995, the Examiner agreed that the claim distinguishes over Cook. The Examiner further stated that he would conduct a supplemental search, and if no pertinent references were found, the application would be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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